## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.     (Currently Amended)   A flow control method for Virtual Container (VC)-Trunks in metropolitan-area network equipment, comprising:

determining, by a receiving-end equipment, whether there is congestion at a single VC-Trunk of a plurality of VC Trunks of a physical port of the receiving-end equipment, if there is congestion at the VC-Trunk, adding a VC-Trunk tag indicating that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk in a flow control packet and sending the flow control packet with the VC-Trunk tag to a transmission-end equipment; wherein the flow control packet comprises an 802.3x pause frame and the VC-Trunk tag as a header to the 802.3x pause frame;

pausing, by the transmission-end equipment, a service transmission of the VC-Trunk according to the VC-Trunk tag in the flow control packet.


2.     (Previously Presented)  The flow control method according to Claim 1, further comprising: after pausing the service transmission of the VC-Trunk, initiating, by the transmission-end equipment, a flow control timer at the transmission-end equipment; if the flow control timer expires and no new flow control packet is received, resuming, by the transmission-end equipment, the service transmission of the VC-Trunk.

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3.      (Previously Presented)  The flow control method according to Claim 1, further comprising: after sending the flow control packet with the VC-Trunk tag to the transmission-end equipment, initiating, by the receiving-end equipment, a flow control timer at the receiving-end equipment and sending the flow control packet in a timely manner until the congestion disappears.

4.      (Previously Presented)  The flow control method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining whether there is congestion at the VC-Trunk of the receiving-end equipment comprises,  calculating, by the receiving-end equipment, the number of service data packets received at the VC-Trunk; and determining that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk if the number exceeds a preset flow control threshold.

5.      (Previously Presented)  The flow control method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining whether there is congestion at the VC-Trunk of the receiving-end equipment comprises, determining, by the receiving-end equipment, whether a First In First Out (FIFO) buffer of the VC-Trunk at the receiving-end transmission equipment is overflow, and determining that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk if the FIFO buffer is overflow.

6.      (Canceled).

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7.      (Previously Presented)    The flow control method according to Claim 1, wherein VC-Trunk tags correspond to VC-Trunks one by one, and a length of the VC-Trunk tag is determined by the number of VC-Trunks.

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8-17.   (Canceled).


18.     (Previously Presented)  The flow control method of claim 1, wherein the flow

control packet with the VC-Trunk tag is sent to the transmission-end equipment through

anyone of the plurality of VC-Trunks except for the VC-Trunk which has congestion.


19-20.   (Canceled).

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